

Prevention of Disease

BY FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

If flies and mosquitoes could be exterminated at one fell blow, and anti-spitting ordinances be enforced in every town and in every home in the land, the annual death rate of the nation would be so marvelously decreased that under-takers and casket-makers would have a hard time eking out a living. A few days ago Dr. Edward A. Ayres declared, before a meeting of the New York College of Medicine, that 250,000 deaths annually resulted from mosquito bites. Another authority has emphatically stated that nine-tenths of all deaths are caused by germs arising from expectoration, and that every man with a communicable disease who spits in a public place is a murderer. This is putting things rather strongly, but since every careless one gives his disease to many other unsuspecting ones, and this disease often results in their deaths, the term has its significance.

Not until 1822 was tuberculosis discovered to be a germ disease and curable. Before that it was looked upon as absolutely fatal, and whenever any one was found to be afflicted with it, the members of his family gave him up as lost. That it is curable in any climate, at any age, and under conditions of poverty as well as conditions of wealth, has been abundantly demonstrated. It is a disease of malnutrition, and its germ thrives in darkness and foul air. So science, in combating it, wisely uses the very simple and sensible weapons of plenty of fresh air, fresh food, fresh air, and sunshine, while the afflicted ones are given the very helpful advice, "Don't worry." This has, in a great measure, tended to decrease the national death rate.

This much has science done. Yet it cannot make the men and women of the world—the intelligent ones as well as the ignorant—see the necessity of guarding the discharges from the mouth. The average person regards the anti-spitting law as the attempt of a fastidious class to make him give up an unlearned habit. He often resents it openly, in pitiable ignorance of the fact that it is for his own protection as well as that of his neighbor. The dry cough of the consumptive expels many germs, but the loose is the more destructive, for when the sputum is dry it frees germs which fly everywhere, and the average consumptive expels seven billion germs every twenty-four hours. Each germ is capable of sowing the seed of disease in some one else. How the health departments of the nation, the State, and the municipalities are going to awaken the people to the gravity of this situation is a puzzling problem.

Associations to enlist the public in the prevention of tuberculosis have come into existence throughout the country. A good example of the work is found in that of the committee on the prevention of tuberculosis in government buildings. This committee has had rules printed and conspicuously posted in every department building, office, and workshop. The first rule reads: "All government employes are positively forbidden to spit upon the floors." A number of simple instructions and warnings follow, and already an improvement in observance of the health law will result in a noticeable change in the vital statistics of government employes. Such persons in the government's employ who have tuberculosis are positively debarred from the use of public cupboards, and each must bring his own portable and destructible receptacle or use old handkerchiefs, bits of cloth, or Japanese paper napkins, which he is in honor bound to destroy and so protect the lives of others from the disease.

The first organized movement against tuberculosis in America was that led by Dr. Lawrence F. Flick, of Philadelphia, when the Pennsylvania Society for the Prevention of Tuberculosis was founded in 1892. There are now two national societies for the prevention of the disease and fifteen State associations, including the District of Columbia. Many States have laws requiring the reporting of cases of tuberculosis, and leading cities and towns have taken radical steps in the same direction. This allows the authorities to provide for the segregation of such cases in hospitals if possible, to provide proper food and care for those who cannot be cared for, and to instruct members of the patient's family and his neighbors in the means of preventing the spread of the disease. Some of the best work in preventing the spread of tuberculosis and in effecting its cure is done by private benevolent bodies. The various associations, whether national or only small local bands, are making one of their first works that of the health law, and in large of the danger of infecting others by spitting on the streets, of the danger of using public drinking cups, and in interesting the masses in the enactment and enforcement of laws that will prevent tuberculosis.

When the government has reclaimed many thousand acres of swamp lands it will not only have furnished homesteads for countless families, but will have protected the health of millions of people by abolishing the breeding grounds of many mosquitoes. Dr. Ayres traces five diseases to the busy members of this family—malaria, yellow fever, beri-beri, dengue, and typhus. Dr. Reed and his martyr co-workers paid a great price for this knowledge of the mosquito's death-dealing propensities, but it is a knowledge that has already saved tens of thousands. As a means of helping persons understand this and to protect themselves and their neighbors, the surgeon general of the Public Health and Marine Hospital Service early prepared a set of facts about screening, all printed in clear type and in simplest terms, and these were sent to postmasters throughout the country liable to infection and posted in a conspicuous place for all to read.

A London physician has recently cast a great bomb into the circles of bridge players that may cause a cessation of that game for some time, or at least lead the players to observe more closely certain sanitary laws. "There is little doubt," says this learned surgeon, "that card parties are a frequent source of common colds, catarrh, and influenza." He points to the fact that the rooms of the players are usually overheated and badly ventilated, rendering the occupants more susceptible to the micro-organisms which are in the atmosphere. These come most often from the packs of cards which are used in turn by various hostesses and are contaminated by their hands, their clothing, or by the saliva when the nervous dealer moistens her finger in her zeal to deal quickly. The surgeon suggests the invention of washable and sterilizable playing cards as a preventive measure against the alarming spread of cold and influenza among the society women who play.

An even greater bombshell than this is the one that the biological laboratory of the Department of Agriculture is now getting ready to hurl into the American home. This will be the intelligence that the cat is one of the greatest carriers of

disease; that it is responsible for the spread of tuberculosis, scarlet fever, smallpox, and diphtheria, especially among children, and that its usefulness is far outweighed by its danger. The bureau is making careful inquiry into Tabby's case, and if the results continue to be such as have already been obtained, spinsterdom will suffer the loss of a comforter, and many a child's heart be made sore with the bereavement of some beloved pet. The rat and his accomplice, the flea, have already been written in the black books of the nation as transmitters of bubonic plague, though evidence so far is circumstantial, yet it is wise to be on the safe side when so great a matter as the protection of the public health is concerned.

Scarlet fever infection can be carried directly from the patient to one who touches him, but furniture, clothing, and bedding have been known to catch the small dust particles, or minute scales, and hold them for years, to later transfer them to some person in just the condition to take the disease. It is a persistent poison, as was found in Detroit five years ago, when the discovery was made that it came through the milk supply in one section, and even after the milk was made pure and non-infecting, the disease was carried by the old milk tickets formerly used. Many

MR. WOLFE'S GOLDEN JUBILEE

Half Century in Masonry Observed by Lafayette Lodge.

Elaborate Programme of Speeches, Music, and Presentation of Beautiful Gift Carried Out.

Mr. Simon Wolfe's golden jubilee as a Mason was celebrated in befitting style by Lafayette Lodge, No. 19, District of Columbia, Saturday evening. There was an elaborate programme of speeches and music. Mr. Wolfe was the recipient of a beautiful gift in the shape of a "chart," in honor of the anniversary work. The presentation was made by Mr. Hart Momen, master of the lodge, and Mr. Wolfe's response was as follows:

My Dear Brethren: Fifty years have gone into history since I saw the light of Free Masonry. In the life of a nation it is comparatively trifling; in that of an individual it practically comprises existence. I know of no period in history that has seen so many notable events as those that have spanned from 1857 to the present day. It was just one year prior to the celebrated debates between Lincoln and Douglas, which brought about the election of the great martyr President, the civil war, the emancipation of the slaves, the restoration of the States, and the subsequent happiness and unrivaled prosperity enjoyed by the American people. A comparative small period, but one that has little to say in the world's affairs. We have since become recognized as one of the important links in the great international chain of human endeavor, and today we are counted in the first class, and the President being peace between nations, and our moral instinct brings nations to Cuba and eliminates from our shores the last vestige of Spanish rule. In the history of the world, there is no period of the world's history has seen greater strides. The oceans have been bridged by the telegraph, and wireless telegraphy has brought human thought to our door. The telephone and the gramophone are no longer novelties, but are "the thousand and one nights," but have become dominant and vitalizing realizations.

The second empire of France crumbled away, and the new republic, constituted on American principles, has shown the world that progress and education, and the destruction of slavery, and democracy, for centuries disintegrated and discordant, has been united into one nation of homogeneous interests, and educated people, a conservator for the world's peace. Our navy, which had practically disappeared in the hands of the sailing in every direction, bringing to the oppressed the message of liberty-loving people spreading the handiwork of American industry all directions. In short, humanity has progressed and shown a tendency for betterment and helpfulness, and therefore, it is not strange, but natural, that the great world organization, the Masonic fraternity, should have kept pace with this stupendous forward step.

While still holding on to the basic principle that the order consists in the bulwark of the order, while still conservative, nevertheless we have caught the spirit of the age, and are trying to keep pace with the wonderful strides being made along all the lines for which the order has been the symbol and the example. No institution conceived by man has ever contributed more to reconciling differences and bringing into closer touch all the divergent interests of humanity than the Masonic fraternity. There is nothing in its construction, in its teachings, and in its exemplification that disturbs the thought or belief of any individual, on the contrary, it is the means of reconciliation and assimilation. It cements—it is constructive, instead of destructive. It is uplifting and teaches man love of his fellow-men. An organization so virtuous must live and continue its useful work to the end of destroying prejudice and ignorance, and make the whole world a temple of beauty, wisdom, and peace.

I have in the fifty years of my Masonic life, in a humble way, aimed to live up to the traditions and teachings of our great organization, and whether home or abroad have given evidence of my fealty to the teachings, and my most devoted example to its exemplification. My intercourse with my fellow-members in this city and in other localities has always been of the most pleasant, courteous, and considerate character, and it is to me the source of the deepest and keenest gratification to know that this feeling of mine for you is heartily and sincerely reciprocated by you.

QUESTION IS TAKEN UP AGAIN.

Labeling of Whiskies Has Been Reopened.

Although the Attorney General issued a statement last week to the effect that the Department of Justice, after considering the question of labeling whiskies had been unable to reach an agreement with the counsel for the rectifiers, Mr. Warwick M. Hough, by which a test case could be presented to the courts, and that, according to the Department, would proceed shortly under the criminal section of the pure food act, it developed last night that the question has been reopened, and the Attorney General is now giving further consideration to the matter. Mr. Hough has filed an additional statement with the Attorney General, who is to again meet the question of a test case.

municipalities have laws on the subject of scarlet fever, smallpox, and diphtheria, requiring the reporting and isolation of the case, prescribing methods of disinfecting, ordering the sterilization of every article used in the room, and suggesting the burning of all nonwashable bedding and mattresses. Ignorance in these, as well as in most other cases, is responsible for the spread of diseases. A case recently cited by medicals was that of a little child of the New York slums, who was discovered in school one day removing bits of dead skin from her arms and generously passing them on to her classmates. An epidemic of scarlet fever was the result, the child's parents being too ignorant to know she was really ill of a contagious disease.

Ignorance has led the world into many old mistakes. The leper was once the synonym for all that was loathsome and unclean. He was driven by the ancients to live in caves in the hills and subsist on such food as he could find. Only a year ago this country brought on herself a lasting disgrace by allowing a leper to perish when he could have been approached and nursed without fear. For proof, look to the leper colony of Hawaii on the island of Molokai. Father Damien, the great hero, it is true, died of the disease, but the good father was not content with modern hygiene, and long days and nights of work made him take too little nourishing food and become negligent of his own health, and the disease found him a ready prey. His successor, the brothers and sisters of the Catholic order, have lived, some of them, for over twenty years in constant attendance on the lepers, and none has been infected. Isolation of cases, medical attention, and proper food and clothing are decreasing the deaths by leprosy and preventing its spread. So much for the triumph of modern science.

To-morrow—Peculiar Homes.

FAILS TO IDENTIFY NEGRO

Mrs. Louis Unable to Connect Prisoners with Crime.

Has Almost Recovered from Effects of Brutal Treatment on Saturday Night.

Mrs. Louise Louis, wife of Dr. A. H. Louis, of the Leumass Apartments, Twelfth and Q streets northwest, who was knocked down and robbed of her purse by a negro in front of 132 Q street northwest, about 9 o'clock Saturday night, was yesterday unable to identify any of the suspects arrested by the police as her assailant.

Immediately following the receipt of the news of the attack three negroes were arrested. The men were held over night. Mrs. Louis said she was positive one of the negroes was her assailant. Although still suffering from the shock, Mrs. Louis has almost recovered from the effects of her brutal treatment.

About six months ago, at the same hour on a Saturday night, a woman was attacked and robbed of her pocketbook by a negro at almost the identical spot where Mrs. Louis was attacked. The negro escaped, after securing the purse, and was never apprehended.

SPEAKS ON LIFE OF HAYDN.

Musical Selections Rendered by Members of Choir.

Usual morning and evening services were held at the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church yesterday. In the morning holy communion was celebrated. At the evening service Dr. Radcliffe gave a short talk on "Let there be light," referring to a striking incident in the life of Haydn, whose "Creation" was rendered in a very beautiful and effective manner by the church choir.

Selections from Haydn were rendered by Mr. A. J. Hudson, basso; Mr. W. C. Mills, tenor, and Mrs. Shir-Cliff, soprano.

The Largest Morning Circulation.

EXPLAINS THE WORK

Rev. Dr. McKim Talks of Episcopal Convention.

GIVES INTERESTING FIGURES

Shows Growth of Church Between Years 1859 and 1907, and Calls Attention to the Matters Affecting Upon Affirmatively and Negatively. Says Delegates Were Enthusiastic.

Rev. Dr. Randolph McKim, in his sermon at the Church of the Epiphany yesterday morning, gave a resume of the work of the general convention of the Episcopal Church, which has just ended its sessions at Richmond, Va., and to which he was a delegate from the local diocese.

In dwelling upon the contrast between the convention which has just ended and that of 1859, held at the same place, Dr. McKim gave the following figures, indicative of the growth of the Episcopal Church during the intervening years: Deputies in 1859, 264; in 1907, 596; bishops in 1859, 41; in 1907, 104; communicants in 1859, 140,000; in 1907, 850,000; dioceses in 1859, 35; in 1907, 64; missionary jurisdictions in 1859, 23; in 1907, 94; population of the country in 1859, 44,000,000; in 1907, 80,000,000; increase of population, 80 per cent; of the Episcopal Church, 600 per cent.

Referring to the legislation of the convention just ended, Dr. McKim said the following matters had been acted upon affirmatively: Office of presiding bishop to be elective, and not, as heretofore, one of seniority; committee appointed to submit to the next convention a new hymnal for Sunday school use; committee appointed to prepare additional prayers for use in the services of the church; creation of four new missionary jurisdictions in the northwestern part of the United States; and, finally, the creation of a new diocese in the State of Georgia, a step taken in creating the office of suffragan bishop, to be chosen at the option of the several dioceses.

An Important Decision.

Under this decision, it is affirmed by the next general convention, it will be possible to have suffragan bishops for the negroes or Scandinavian, or, indeed, for any special dioceses in need. The convention also decided that converts to Christianity from Judaism should not be compelled to abandon the Covenant of Abraham, nor any of their national customs not inconsistent with Christianity. A comparative small period, but one that has little to say in the world's affairs. We have since become recognized as one of the important links in the great international chain of human endeavor, and today we are counted in the first class, and the President being peace between nations, and our moral instinct brings nations to Cuba and eliminates from our shores the last vestige of Spanish rule. In the history of the world, there is no period of the world's history has seen greater strides. The oceans have been bridged by the telegraph, and wireless telegraphy has brought human thought to our door. The telephone and the gramophone are no longer novelties, but are "the thousand and one nights," but have become dominant and vitalizing realizations.

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A proposal to make the law of marriage and divorce more stringent than at present met with very little favor, and was laid over. The convention also declined to adopt a motion to remove the thirty-nine articles from the prayer-book.

On the other hand the convention took negative action on the following measures:

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MISS ROMER—A MYSTERY.

Fascinating Heroine Tells of Her Strange Adventures.

A woman of mystery, whose account of herself, if true, is one of the most thrilling life stories ever told, arrived on her way to Kirkcubright. Through the advice of her counsel, she at first denied herself to all interviews; but at last consented to give a reporter a brief outline of her narrative.

The woman—Miss Lida Romer, formerly of Cornwall—is strikingly beautiful, and not more than twenty years old. Yet she has undergone adventures such as seldom are crowded into the longest life. She is the daughter of Jacob Romer, the British iron lord; but, though almost penniless, refuses to accept any portion of her father's vast wealth.

Romer, according to the young lady's story, grew tired of his invalid wife, and shipped her off with Miss Vida on what purported to be a pleasant holiday jaunt in one of his own trading ships. Romer's right-hand man, James Kahn, was put in charge of the vessel. During a severe storm off the Hebrides the two women were locked into their staterooms. The shock and violence of the storm proved too much for the invalid's delicate health, and before morning she had died. Vida, left alone in the world and unable to summon aid, at length succeeded in breaking out of the cabin and making her way on deck.

The storm had subsided, but to her horror, the girl found herself the sole occupant of the ship. Kahn and the crew had fled in boats, leaving the battered hulk of the vessel to break up against the rocks toward which she was rapidly drifting.

The situation was terribly precarious. Far more so, in fact, than the luckless maiden understood. To be alone on a leaky, doomed ship in foreign seas, with not a sail visible in all the wide expanse of gray water; ignorant of seamanship, and of the full nature of her own peril. It was a situation which, seemingly, could not be made worse. Yet far worse was close at hand.

In fact, Miss Romer was merely at the

PLACES OF INTEREST.

Library of Congress—Open 9 a. m. to 10 p. m. on regular days; from 2 p. m. to 10 p. m. on Sundays and on certain holidays.

Public Library—Open 9 a. m. to 5 p. m.; holidays, 10 a. m. to 10 p. m.; Sundays, 2 to 10 p. m.

Executive Mansion—Open 10 a. m. to 2 p. m.

United States Capitol—Open 9 a. m. to 4:30 p. m.

United States Treasury—Open 9 a. m. to 2 p. m.

State, War and Navy Departments—Open 9 a. m. to 2 p. m. (The original Declaration of Independence is in the Library of the State Department.)

United States Patent Office—Open 9 a. m. to 2 p. m.

United States Pension Bureau—Open 9 a. m. to 4 p. m.

United States Post-office—Open 9 a. m. to 2 p. m. Washington City Post-office—Open all hours. (The Dead Letter Office is in the city post-office.)

National Botanic Garden—Open 9 a. m. to 5 p. m.

Fish Commission—Open 9 a. m. to 4:30 p. m.

Army Medical Museum—Open 9 a. m. to 4:30 p. m.

National Museum—Open 9 a. m. to 4:30 p. m. (including holidays.)

Smithsonian Institution—Open 9 a. m. to 4:30 p. m. (including holidays.)

Agricultural Department—Open 9 a. m. to 4:30 p. m.

Bureau of Engraving and Printing—Open 9 a. m. to 2:30 p. m.

Washington Monument (Elevator runs in light)—Open 8:30 a. m. to 4:30 p. m. (Elevator runs from 9 a. m. until 4 p. m.)

Courtesy Gallery of Art—Open 9:30 a. m. to 4 p. m. in winter; 9 a. m. to 4 p. m. in summer. Sundays—1:30 p. m. to 5 p. m., excepting in midsummer. Admission free on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays, other days 50 cents.

Artillery National Cemetery—Open all day.

United States Soldiers' Home—Open 9 a. m. to sunset.

Cathedral Grounds, Tennallytown road—Open 9 a. m. to 6 p. m.

Cabin John Bridge, Catholic University, and Alexandria.

ONLY FIVE CONTESTED SEATS

Speaker Cannon May Abolish Two of Election Committees.

Not Enough Work for Three This Session, But Membership Applications Are Many.

Speaker Cannon is considering the advisability of abolishing two of the three election committees of the House. The only thing standing in the way is the fact that such action would mean the loss of two desirable chairmanships and about fourteen committee places at a time when members are flooding the Speaker with requests for desirable assignments. On the other hand, one election committee can easily handle the work of the next Congress at its short session.

The question of placing members becomes more difficult with each succeeding Congress, and the addition of five new men from Oklahoma means a total of 38 men who have to be provided for in the new Congress. While one election committee can more than do the work, there is much to be gained from a personal standpoint by the Speaker's retaining all the committees. It means that many more plums for distribution.

Until the Fifty-fourth Congress there was only one Elections Committee. In that Congress Speaker Reed appointed three, owing to the unusual number of contests that year. This policy has been followed by his successors, regardless of the fact that there has been a decline in the number of contested election cases, and most of a disposition among members to settle their quarrels of politics, owing to the large party majorities inclining no motive for partisanship.

The contest preliminaries of the new Congress indicated that there would be six contests, all from the Illinois district the contestant accepted the result of a recount and Representative Charles McGehee now has undisputed claim to his seat. Of the five contestants which come before the House, three are from South Carolina, one from New Mexico, and one from Illinois. None of them is considered of much importance, the grounds of contest generally being fraud in the count.

MAJESTIC THEATRE

Popular with the People.

Next Week—Hazel Kirke.

Next Week—New York Stars Co.

Next Week—Bowler and Lina.

Next Week—The Ideal Rink.

Next Week—Military Band.

Next Week—Professional Cards.

Next Week—B. Frank Gebest.

Next Week—The Temple School.

Next Week—The National Art & Crafts Institute.

Next Week—Do Not Miss the Opening Chapter of The Iron Lord.

Next Week—The Washington Herald.

Next Week—The Iron Lord.

AMUSEMENTS.

COLUMBIA, Washington's Leading Theater
TO-NIGHT AT 8:15.
SATURDAY MATINEE ONLY.
CHAS. DILLINGHAM PRESENTS
FRANK DANIELS
IN HIS LATEST COMIC OPERA SUCCESS,
"THE TATTOOED MAN"
As presented at the Criterion Theater, New York, for Three Months.

Next Week.

Henry W. Sawyer offers for the First Time Here THE LONDON APOLLO THEATRE SUCCESS.

Tom Jones

A NEW ENGLISH COMIC OPERA.

Music by Edward German. Lyrics by Chas. H. Taylor.

Book by Holt, Courtneidge and A. W. Thompson.

Selected Cast, including: LOUISE GUNNING, WILLIAM NOIRIS, VAN R. WHEEL.

Next Week.

Henry H. Harris and Maurice Campbell offer

Henrietta Crozman

AND CAST OF 10 IN THE NEW MUSIC PLAY, "The Christian Pilgrim"

Next Week—Battie Williams in "The Little Church."

ELMENDORF

"DELIGHTFUL HOURS OF TRAVEL"

TO-DAY AT 4:30 "GRAND CANYON."

Next Week—The Road to Yesterday.

BELASCO WASHINGTON'S PLATONIC BEAUTIFUL

Offering Only the Leading American and Foreign Attractions.

TO-NIGHT—COLLEGE NIGHT.

Matinee Wednesday and Saturday.

HENRY MILLER PRESENTS

Henry Woodruff

In the Great College Play Success

BROWN OF HARVARD

Next Week—THE ROAD TO YESTERDAY.

Chases POLITE VAUDEVILLE

Daily Matinees, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, and 10:30.

Master Gabriel & Co., in "Auntie's Visit."

Edwin Stevens & Co., in "An Evening with Dickens."

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